



**TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, January 26, 2023  
7:00 pm**

**Live in the Council Chambers @ the Municipal Building**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that action was taken on the following items at the Sparta Environmental Commission meeting Thursday, January 26, 2023

- TIME:** The meeting is called to order at 7:05 pm – Kimberly Noel
- STATEMENT:** Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the public and the press on January 6, 2023, by delivering to the Press and posting on the Township website a copy of the notice – Kimberly Noel
1. **Roll Call:** Kimberly Noel (Chair)  
Theodore Gall  
Christine Dunbar (Planning Board liaison)  
Neil Sauerwein (Vice Chair),  
Debra Card (Secretary)  
Kristine Rogers (Alternate)
  2. **Absent:**  
Daniel Chiariello (Town Council Liaison - alternate)  
Richard Tomko  
Robert Poles  
Dean Blumetti (Town Council Liaison)
  3. **Salute the Flag:** Kimberly Noel (Chair)
  4. **Approval of Minutes:** Meeting minutes from July 14, 2022  
Meeting Minute for October 13, 2022  
Approved/accepted: 1<sup>st</sup> Christine Dunbar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil Sauerwein
  5. **Correspondence:** Ecolsciences Inc (11-1-22) with CD  
Reviewed by group - Neil agreed to download and share.
  6. **Applications:** Sparta Eye Associates PB Application #702  
  
The group reviewed the application plans and agreed draft recommendations to the planning board. Recommendations to be drafted regarding brook near location and native plants
  7. **Reports:**  
  
Council liaison and alternate - absent – no report  
Christine Dunbar (Planning Board Liaison) – nothing to report due to reorganization.



8. **Unfinished Business:**

Debbie Card (Secretary) ANJEC dues – Paid this week with reimbursement for flowers/gift certificate.

Kimberly Noel (Chair) suggested March dates for the representative from ANJEC to come to speak.

Kimberly Noel (Chair) Sustainable Jersey Recertification process - Press Release to go out next week.

Kimberly Noel (Chair) Grants – subcommittee met. We are drafting a grant application for a \$2000 Green Business Grant. Deadline is 2-10-22. An intern from Montclair was requested to work with Environmental Commission specifically on identifying the Green Business initiative.

9. **Public Comment**                      None

10. **New Business:**

Presentation of Flowers/gift card to Michele Landtau for invaluable help with the Sustainable NJ Bronze Designation. Presented by Kimberly Noel and group.

Kim Noel (Chair) – Earth Day Saturday April 22, 2023

Group discussed possible speakers/ideas:

- Find out what is needed to allow event to take place.
- Invite Sparta Farmer's Market to participate.
- ANJEC speaker request.
- Wildlife Conservation – “Turtle Lady” that did presentation for Skylands Sierra Club.
- Father John's and OSCAR
- Wallkill River Watershed Management Group
- SCUMA
- Cottage Industries
- Food Truck(s)
- School participation would be great including Sparta and Pope John Ecology Groups and Key club.
- Green Team
- Food Pantry – bring item to donate to participate.

Prioritize participants: 1. Sparta Organizations 2. Conservation 3. Wildlife/animal conservation and interaction.

Are special food licenses needed for food trucks? Debbie took question away.

Graphic design for day/fliers and confirm availability with PD/Municipal Offices/Risk Management.

Debbie Card (Secretary) New website is up as of January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and please review for any changes you would like to see. A few errors already noted on page to be corrected this week.

Neil Sauerwein – Highland's update



Debbie Card (Secretary) Budget – Sam Rome CFO contacted but no response yet. Current budget is temporary. No new budget yet for 2023. Current Balance \$793.

Kimberly Noel (Chair) Updated meeting schedule for 2023 Cancel April 12-2023 (Passover) and Dec 28, 2023 (Holiday week). Accepted/Approved 1<sup>st</sup> Neil Sauerwein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Christine Dunbar

Christine Dunbar – By using the latest technologies for trucks, a municipality can reduce its road salt usage up to 50%. This is critical to protect our well water, aquatic ecosystems, infrastructure, and the health of vulnerable individuals. Group suggested a memo go out regarding road salt applications to the Town Manager, Engineer and DPW Chief Jim Zepp with the road salt best management practices and asking for a written reply to inform us as to which Sparta DPW of these has implemented. There is an outside expert who has volunteered to answer any questions we have. Christine reported on the road salt testing in the Sparta streams and areas is being carried out by Citizen Scientist volunteers and the readings, so far, are not within the safer limits for water safety. Christine recommended watching a two-hour presentation regarding safer salt application.

**Adjournment:**

8:45 PM Kimberly Noel (Chair)  
1<sup>st</sup> Christine Dunbar 2<sup>nd</sup> Ted Gall